

REMARKS

The nonfinal Office Action of July 3, 2007, has been reviewed by the Applicants. Claims 1, 5-7, 12, 15, and 22 have been amended. Claim 10 has been cancelled. Claims 1-9 and 11-22 remain pending. Applicants request reconsideration.

Claims 5, 6, 12, and 15 have been amended to correct their dependency. Support for these amendments can be found in the original claims of PCT/EP2003/011094, of which this application is the national stage application in the United States. Claim 7 has been amended to clarify its dependency. It is believed that the Preliminary Amendment may not have been clearly understood, as the strikethrough of the numeral 4 may have overlapped the horizontal line.

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentably over Imuta (U.S. Pat. Pub. 2002/0156207). Applicants traverse the rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 22 have been amended to recite the subject matter of claim 10, that the nanofiller has been intercalated with a quaternary ammonium compound comprising intercalating agent. Support for this amendment can be found on pages 8 and 9 of the specification. This aspect is not discussed in Imuta; see paragraphs [1286] through [1294]. The Examiner cited paragraphs [0480] and [0525+]. These two specific paragraphs appear to discuss suitable catalysts. The use of a quaternary ammonium compound containing intercalating agent is not taught or suggested and is therefore not obvious.

In addition, Imuta only discusses fillers; he does not discuss nanofillers. In other words, this particular size range is not taught or suggested. The use of nanofillers is needed to achieve a homogenous composite; see page 4 of the specification.

Applicants request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection based on Imuta.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 1-9 and 11-22) are now in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is requested.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is hereby authorized to call Richard M. Klein, at telephone number 216-861-5582, Cleveland, OH.

If it is determined that additional fees are due, authorization is hereby given for deduction of those fees, other than the issue fees, from Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

Respectfully submitted,

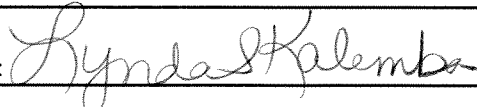
FAY SHARPE LLP

December 3, 2007

Date



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION	
I hereby certify that this correspondence (and any item referred to herein as being attached or enclosed) is (are) being	
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	Signature: 
Date: December 3, 2007	Name: Lynda S. Kalemba

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